SYLVIA AND I SPENT HOURS TALKING ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS WHEN SHE WASN'T PREPARING THE PORTAL.

THOSE HOURS BLED INTO DAYS, AND THOSE DAYS INTO WEEKS WHILE WE SPENT EVERY MOMENT IN EACH OTHER'S COMPANY.

And while
Sylvia never spoke about her own life, I slowly began to understand what sort of "person" this mysterious being was.

THE BEGINNING AFTER THE END

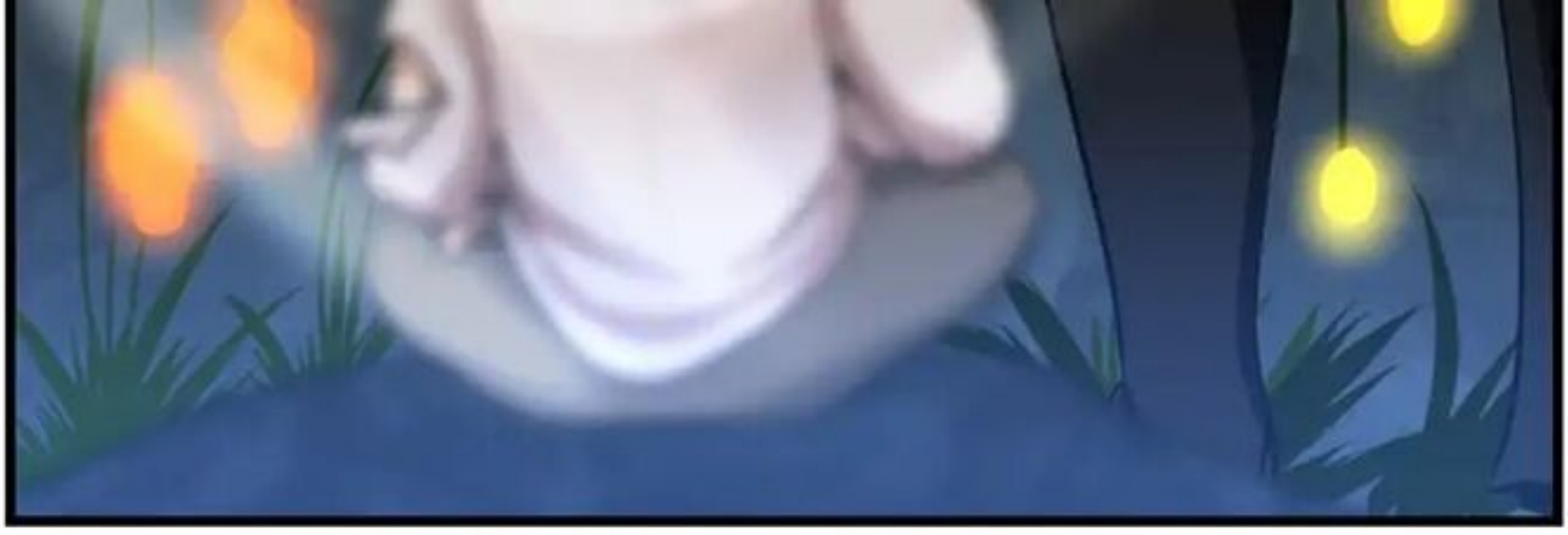
STORY BY
TURTLEME

ART BY
FUYUKI23

COLOR ASSISTANT BY
ISSATSU

QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

SYLVIA WAS
THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF
THE PHRASE, "DON'T JUDGE A
BOOK BY ITS COVER."



Contrary to her
trauma-inducing appearance,
she was kind, gentle,
patient, and warm.

HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO DINE YET, ART?

THESE FRUITS ARE PARTICULARLY SAVORY AND RARELY GROW ELSEWHERE.

SHE REMINDED ME OF MY MOTHER IN THAT SHE WAS GENTLE AND KIND...

...BUT FIRMLY SCOLDED ME
WHEN I WAS WRONG.

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING UNPLEASANT.

THERE WAS A TIME
WHEN I HAD EXPRESSED MY
ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE
BANDITS.

They deserved worse deaths. If any of them made it out alive...

I'M GOING TO HUNT THEM DOWN.

WHACK

WHACK

THUD

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

ART, PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT WRONG IN THAT THOSE BANDITS DESERVE DEATH.

I CHOSE NOT TO SAVE THE MAGE YOU FELL WITH FOR THE SAME REASON.

THEN WHY DID YOU--

HOWEVER...

LETTING YOUR HEART CLOUD WITH HATRED AND VENGEANCE LIKE THIS WILL ONLY CAUSE HARM TO YOURSELF.

INSTEAD, CONTINUE ON

PROUDLY WITH
YOUR LIFE WITH
YOUR GAZE
FORWARD.

YOU WILL
COME ACROSS

MISFORTUNES AGAIN, BUT DON'T LET GRIEF AND RAGE CORRODE YOUR MIND.

LEARN FROM THEM AND FACE THE FUTURE WITH A SMILE.

ONLY THEN

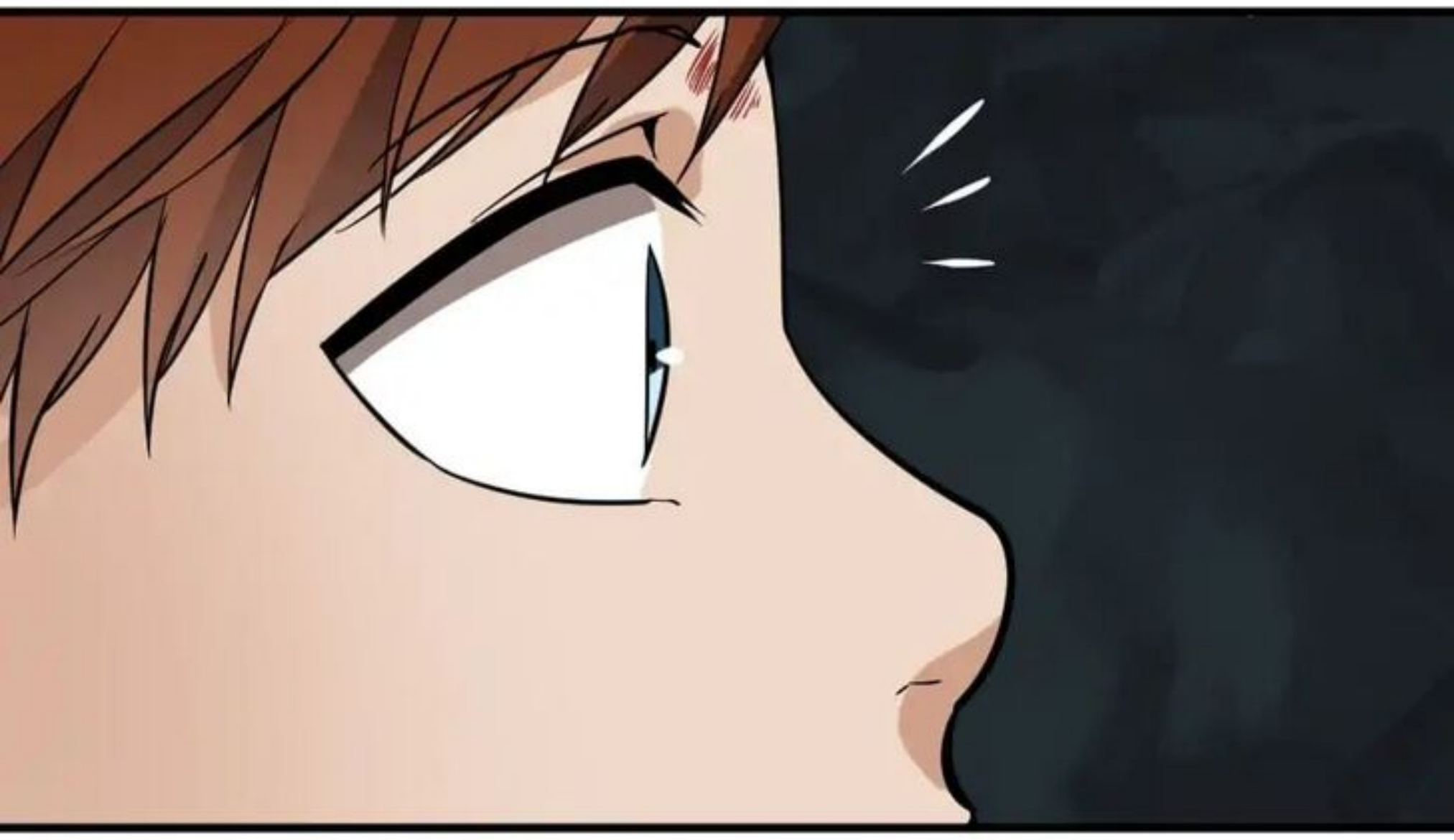
WILL YOU TRULY BE VICTORIOUS.

...DID I FLICK YOU TOO HARD? DOES IT STILL HURT, ART?

Being lectured on morals
and life by a figure that
appeared to be the epitome of evil
had oddly stricken me deeply.

ART?

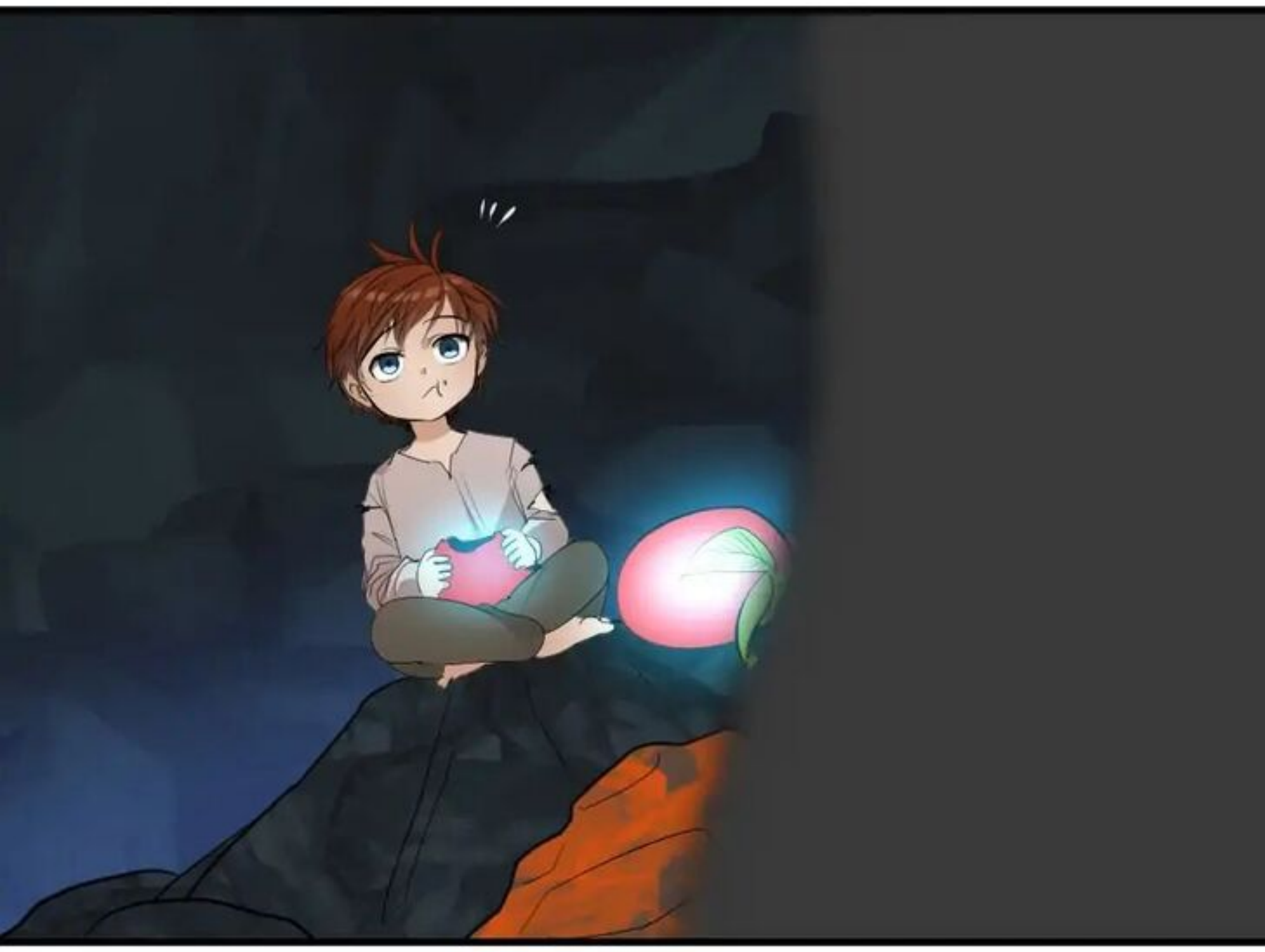
ART!



WHY DON'T

YOU EAT THE FRUIT? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

EH? AH! NO! I-I'M FINE!



SYLVIA! YOUR WOUND... IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GETTING WORSE!

DO NOT WORRY

DO NOT WORRY, LITTLE ONE. THIS WOUND FESTERS FROM TIME TO TIME.

IS THAT REALLY THE CASE?!

ALSO, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK...

HMM?

IT WAS TO MY UNDERSTANDING THAT HUMANS USUALLY AWAKEN AROUND THE AGE OF TWELVE OR THIRTEEN.

HOW HAVE YOU FORMED YOUR MANA CORE, ALREADY ABLE TO UTILIZE MANA MORE EFFICIENTLY THAN MANY FULL-FLEDGED MAGES?

MY PARENTS SAID I'M A GENIUS!

THEN PERHAPS

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN IT.

LEARN WHAT?

GROOOAA

TO MEDITATE AND ABSORB MANA WHILE MOVING, AND PERHAPS WHILE FIGHTING IF YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH.

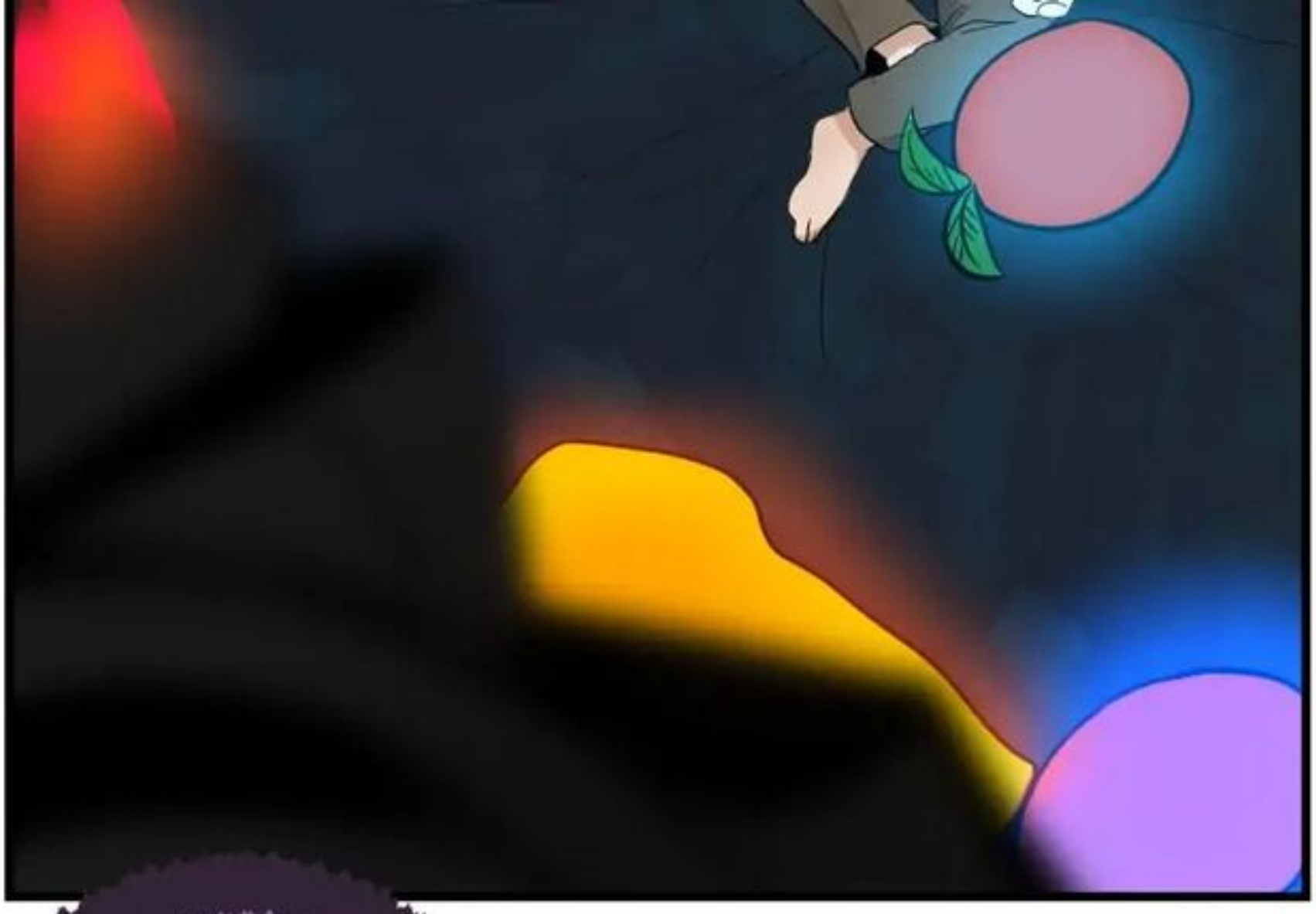
H-HOW ARE YOU DOING THAT?

HUMANS
HAVE A VERY LINEAR
MINDSET IN REGARDS TO MANA.
JUST START WITH SMALL, MINDLESS
MOVEMENTS AND WORK YOUR WAY
UP FROM THERE.

FSSH

POOF

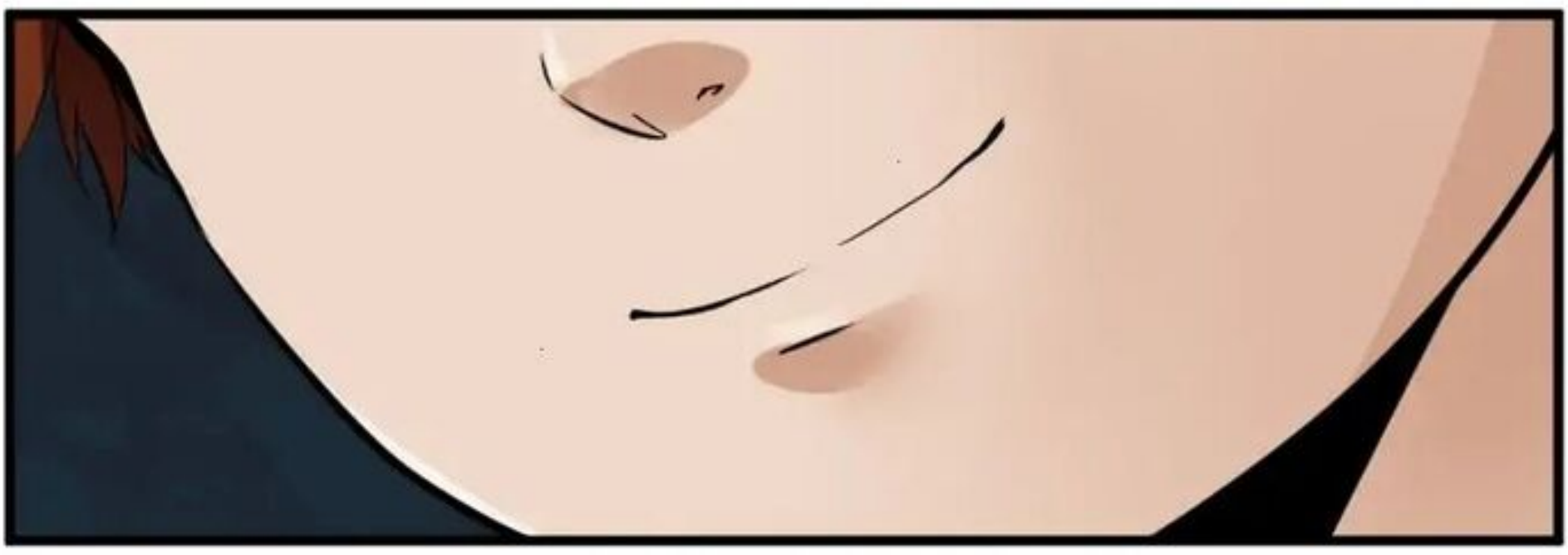
EASIER SAID
THEN DONE.



MANA BEASTS LEARN TO DO THIS NATURALLY BUT SINCE HUMANS USUALLY AWAKEN MUCH LATER,

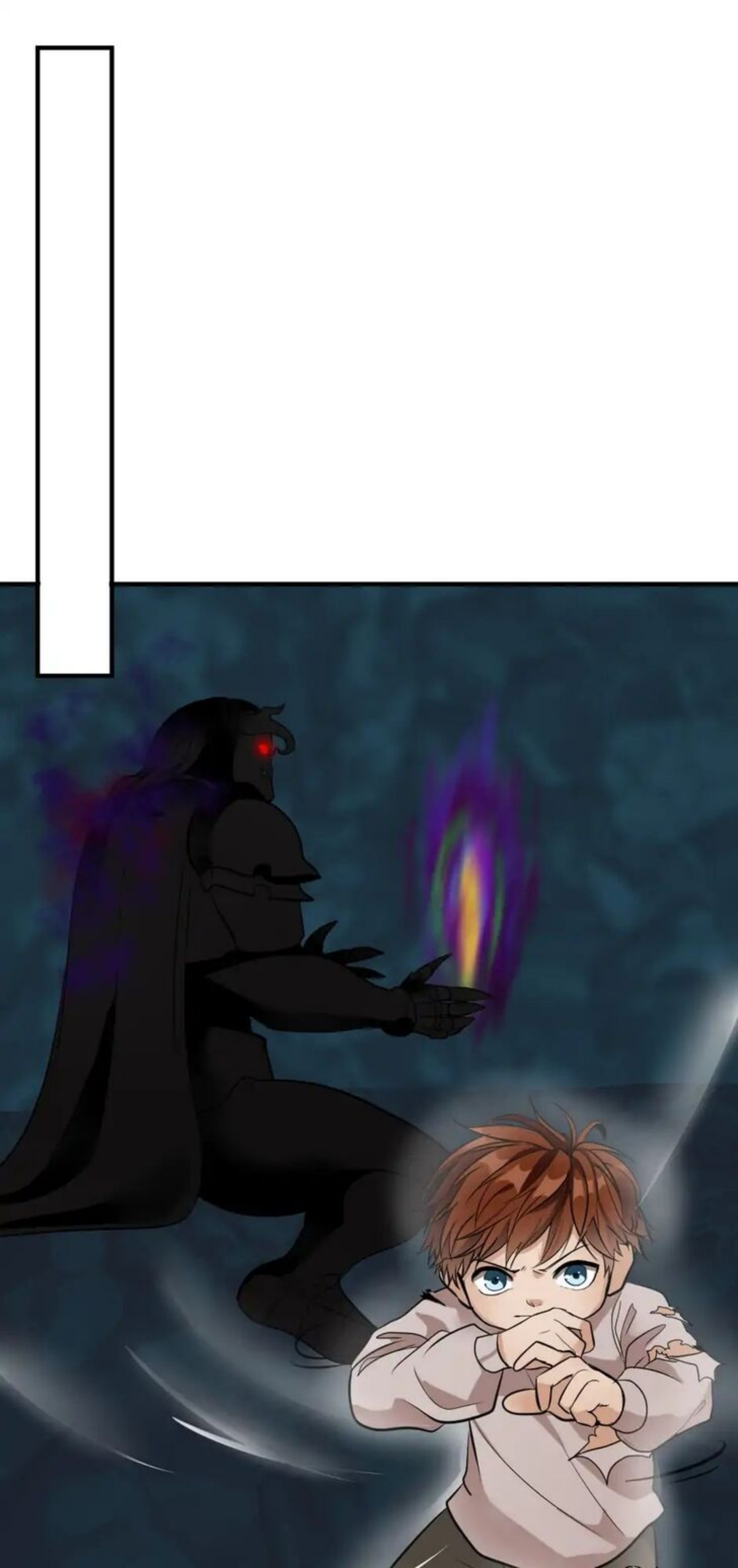
THEIR BODIES AREN'T ABLE TO DO THIS SORT OF MULTITASKING.

CONSIDERING THE LATTER FACT DOESN'T APPLY TO YOU, IF YOU PRACTICE HARD ENOUGH, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUCCEED.



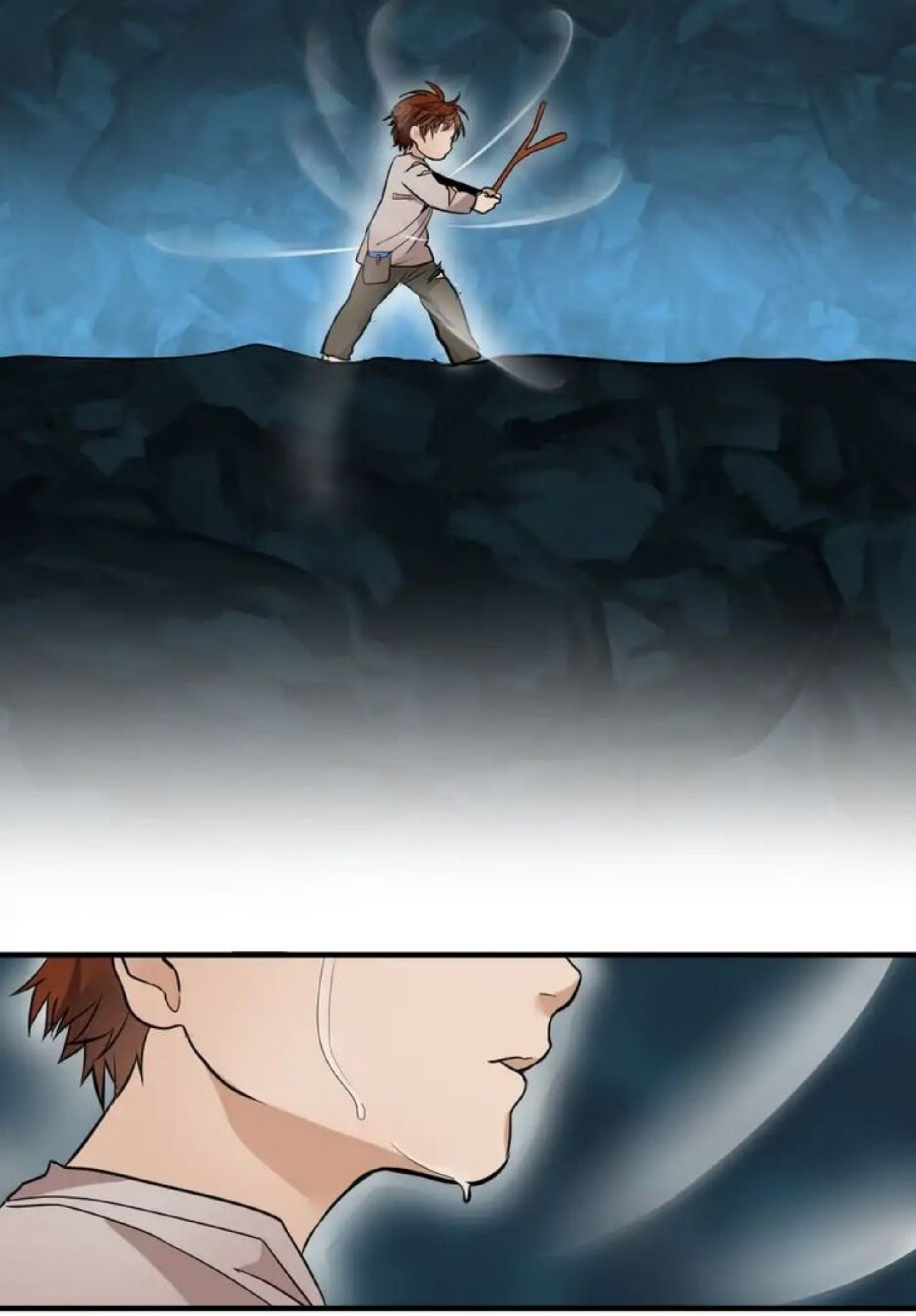
I'LL DO MY BEST!

AS YOU SHOULD...
LAUGH

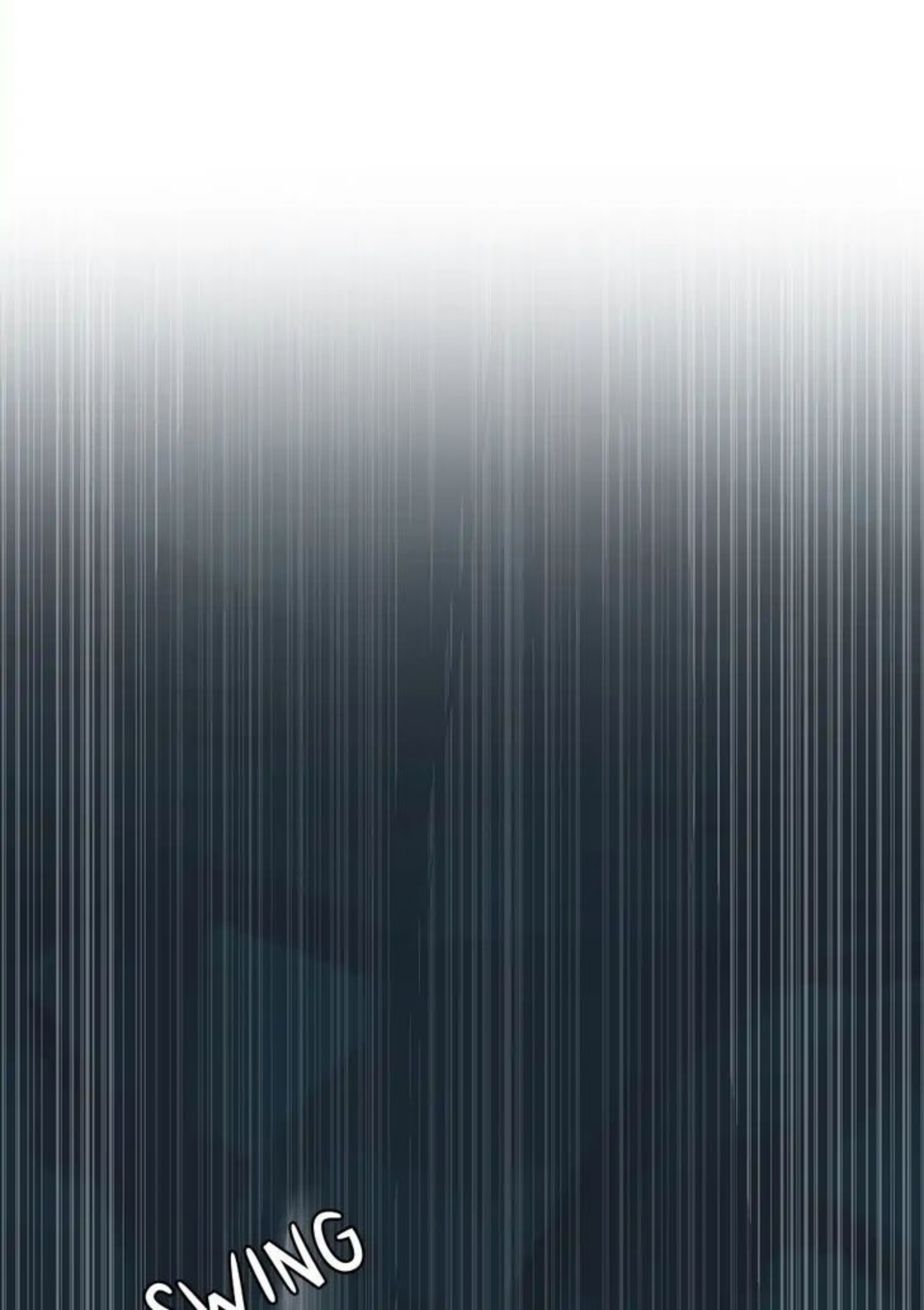


THUCK

PRACTICING THIS SKILL TO ITS FULLEST ESSENTIALLY MEANT BEING ABLE TO FIGHT PROFICIENTLY WHILE STILL MAINTAINING A STEADY INWARD FLOW OF MANA.



GRIP


SWING

SWING

STAB

I-IT CAN'T BE...

SYLVIA!
I DID IT!

THUD!

S-SYLVIA!

KUROEYKS